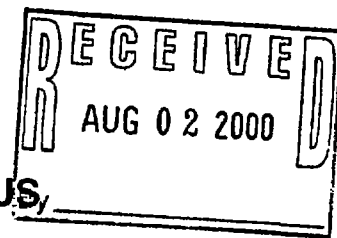


**FORMER DIRECTORS OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,**



July 27, 2000

Mr. John H. Thompson  
Associate Director for Decennial Census  
Bureau of the Census, Building 2, Room 3586  
Suitland and Silver Hill Roads  
Suitland, MD 20233

Dear Mr. Thompson:

As former directors of the Bureau of the Census we wish to go on record in support of the proposed rule regarding the procedure for release of the corrected data file for Census 2000 published in the *Federal Register* on June 20, 2000.

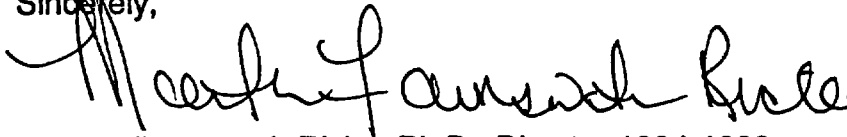
Delegating the decision on the release of the corrected data for Census 2000 by the Secretary of Commerce to the Director of the Census Bureau, upon the recommendation of the Director's professional staff, puts the decision with scientific professionals where we believe it belongs. Our experience is that the Census Bureau professional staff is comprised of highly-trained, objective experts in the fields of census and survey methodology, statistics and demography. They are more capable than others of judging and recommending whether the corrected 2000 data more accurately reflect the U.S. population than does the enumerated count released earlier for apportionment purposes.

We emphasize that our position in this letter focuses only on the *procedure* as contained in the June 20, 2000, *Federal Register*. We are not taking a position on whether to release corrected census data, but rather that this decision be delegated to the Census Bureau Director working with the Census Bureau professional staff.

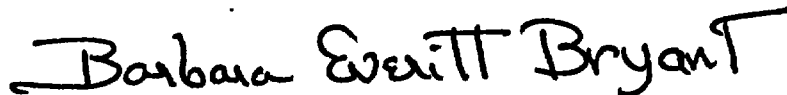
This support for the proposed ruling comes from former Directors of the Census Bureau. In our combined tenures we have worked with Census Bureau professional staff on the dissemination of the 1970 census; the planning,

conducting, and dissemination of the 1980 and 1990 censuses; and the planning for the current 2000 census.

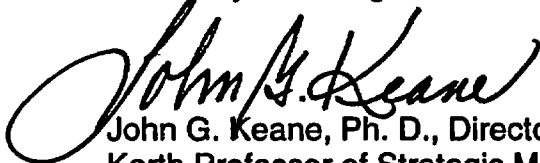
Sincerely,



Martha Farnsworth Riche, Ph.D., Director 1994-1998  
Consultant



Barbara Everitt Bryant, Ph.D., Director, Bureau of the Census, 1989-1993  
Research Scientist and Managing Director, American Customer Satisfaction  
Index  
University of Michigan Business School



John G. Keane, Ph. D., Director, Bureau of the Census, 1984-1989  
Korth Professor of Strategic Management and Gillen Dean Emeritus  
Mendoza College of Business  
University of Notre Dame



Vincent Barabba, Director, Bureau of the Census, 1973-1976 and 1979-1981  
General Manager, Corporate Strategy and Knowledge Development,  
General Motors Corporation

Cc: Kenneth Prewitt, Director, Bureau of the Census